

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Cao for his time in a telephone conference with Applicants' representative concerning the filing of a substitute specification.

The specification is amended by a substitute specification under 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(3). Applicants replace the specification with the substitute specification in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.121(b)(3) and 1.125(b). Included with the substitute specification is a Verification of Translation stating that the attached English translation is a true and correct translation of U.S. Application No. 09/763,014 based on International Application PCT/JP00/03911, filed on June 15, 2000. The substitute specification includes no new matter.

The substitute specification is filed to correct an error that occurred when an incorrect English translation of the Japanese International Application PCT/JP00/03911 was filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the national phase filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 29, 2001. The incorrect English translation is from an unrelated case filed by Applicants at about the same time as the instant case. The incorrect English translation was inadvertently filed in the instant case.

Applicants replace the specification (pages 1 through 30) as filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 29, 2001 with the substitute specification (pages 1 through 31) enclosed with this amendment. The substitute specification includes no new matter.

The figures as originally filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 29, 2001 are correct. No amendment or substitution of Figures 1 through 8 is made by this amendment.

Applicants cancel claims 1-12 and submit new claims 13-24. New claims 13-24 are an English translation of claims 1-12 from the Japanese International Application PCT/JP00/03911, which are identical to claims 1-12 of the substitute specification at pages 28-30. Support for new claims 13-24 may be found at pages 28-30 (claims 1-11) of the substitute specification and throughout the substitute specification. No new matter has been added by amendment to the claims. The claims have not been amended for any reason related to patentability of the claims.

In consideration of the amendment to the specification and the claims, all rejections and objections in the Examiner's Action dated August 21, 2002 are moot. Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and for double patenting under 35 U.S.C. §101 is moot. For the same reason, Applicants submit that the objection to the

abstract and drawings is moot. For the same reason, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot.

CONCLUSION

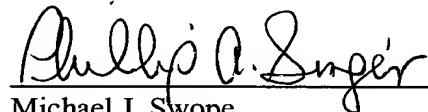
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-332-1380.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Also attached hereto is a Verification of Translation dated February 13, 2003 and a substitute specification (pages 1 through 31).

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

The original specification (pages 1 to 30) is replaced in its entirety with the substitute specification (pages 1 to 31).

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 12.

Please add new claims 13 to 24.